

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CStP)  
CONSERVATION ACTIVITY & EVALUATION TOOL (CAET) GUIDANCE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

Fiscal Year 2017-1 Farmstead	
<b>Soil Erosion</b>	
Sheet and Rill Erosion	
Use Evaluation Test Questions: 1.) All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable. 2.) All non-traffic areas are vegetated. Feeding areas would be considered high traffic areas.	
Wind Erosion	
Use Evaluation Test Questions: 1.) All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable. 2.) All non-traffic areas are vegetated. Feeding areas would be considered high traffic areas.	
Classic Gully Erosion	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. Classic gully erosion generally occurs in well defined drainage ways and generally is not obliterated by tillage. In some situations, headcuts are present and aid in advancing the gully upstream. Field observation will be used to determine if classic gullies are present or not.	
Streambank, Shoreline, and Water Conveyance Channels	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_042678.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_042678.pdf</a>	
<b>Soil Quality Degradation</b>	
Compaction	
Use Evaluation Test Question: Soil compaction is limited to roads and landings. Tree root growth is not impeded. No more than 15 percent of the forested area is devoted to roads, trails, and landings.	
Subsidence	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. Even though Subsidence is not a client's objective, there still may be a resource concern!! There are NO Histosol soils present in Kansas. Answer this question "YES".	

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Concentration of Salts and other Chemicals	
Use Evaluation Test Question: All erodible areas with high chemical concentrations (such as high salts) have been stabilized with permanent vegetation.	
<b>Excess Water</b>	
Runoff, Flooding, and Ponding	
Use Evaluation Test Question: Water runoff from hard surfaces, such as building roofs, is controlled to the point that it does not cause flooding or ponding.	
<b>Water Quality Degradation</b>	
Nutrients in Surface Water	
Use Evaluation Test Question: Manure and untreated runoff from animal pens, feedlots, or similar animal feeding operations (AFOs) is stopped from entering nearby streams, drainage ditches, and irrigation ditches. If not present, answer this question "N/A".	
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids, or Compost Applications in Surface Water	
Use Evaluation Test Questions: 1.) Any water well(s) is located at least 100 feet from animal pens, feedlots, or similar AFO. Runoff from these areas is treated. An impervious barrier around the well prevents seepage into the groundwater. 2.) Manure and untreated runoff from animal pens, feedlots, or similar AFO is stopped from entering nearby streams, drainage ditches, and irrigation ditches. If not present, answer the questions "N/A".	
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids, or Compost Applications in Ground Water	
Use Evaluation Test Question: Any water well(s) is located at least 100 feet from animal pens, feedlots, or similar AFO. Runoff from these areas is treated. An impervious barrier around the well prevents seepage into the groundwater.	

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Petroleum, Heavy Metal, and Other Pollutants Transported to Surface Water	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. The fuel storage area and tank must be located a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well. Any tank over 660 gallons must be double-walled or have a secondary containment system.	
Petroleum, Heavy Metal, and Other Pollutants Transported to Ground Water	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. The fuel storage area and tank must be located a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well. Any tank over 660 gallons must be double-walled or have a secondary containment system.	
Excessive Sediment in Surface Water	
Use Evaluation Test Question: All small, temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized.	
<b>Air Quality Impacts</b>	
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors	
Use Evaluation Test question: Dust is controlled on all non-vegetated, unpaved travel ways. If gravel, sand, or other materials are used to control dust, answer this question "YES".	
<b>Degraded Plant Condition</b>	
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	
Use Evaluation Test question: Invasive and noxious weeds are controlled or not present.	

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<b>Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat</b>	
Inadequate Habitat - Food	
<p>Use Evaluation Test question: Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help chosen wildlife species. The Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan lists the species of greatest conservation need by ecoregion. The chosen declining species in Kansas for CStP are the Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and Northern Bobwhite. Answer this question “YES”, if the producer has implemented a wildlife habitat management plan.</p>	
Inadequate Habitat – Cover/Shelter	
<p>Use Evaluation Test question: Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help chosen wildlife species. The Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan lists the species of greatest conservation need by ecoregion. The chosen declining species in Kansas for CStP are the Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and Northern Bobwhite. Answer this question “YES”, if the producer has implemented a wildlife habitat management plan.</p>	
Inadequate Habitat – Habitat Continuity (Space)	
<p>Use Evaluation Test question: Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. The Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan lists the species of greatest conservation need by ecoregion. The chosen declining species in Kansas for CStP are the Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and Northern Bobwhite. Review Kansas Biology Technical Note KS-33 [Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV, Conservation Practices, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Fact Sheet] for habitat requirements.</p>	
<b>Inefficient Energy Use</b>	
Equipment and Facilities	
<p>Use Evaluation Test question: Energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, cooling, heating, or building insulation has been improved. Do not evaluate houses located on farmsteads as part of this micro-resource concern.</p>	
Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations	
<p>Use Evaluation Test question: Energy loss from driven equipment, irrigation, or pumping has been improved.</p>	